

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 022044Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7893

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH KENDAL ISAACS

1. A FEW POINTS RELATIVE TO THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE MAY BE OF INTEREST.
2. ISAACS NOW ASSESSES ELECTION RACE AS LIKELY TO BE CLOSE. FNM IS GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE OUT ISLAND CONSTITUENCIES WHERE VERY SMALL POPULATION CONTROLS 18 SEATS OF THE TOTAL OF 38 IN THE HOUSE. ISAACS REVEALED THAT WALLACE-WHITFIELD WAS CURRENTLY MAKING AN EXTENDED TRIP THROUGH THE OUT ISLANDS.
3. ISAACS CONTINUES TO SEE ECONOMIC SITUATION AS THE KEY. ACCORDINGLY, HE TENDS TO DISAGREE WITH WALLACE-WHITFIELD ON TIMING OF THE ELECTIONS BELIEVING PLP WILL HOLD OFF AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO INITIATE PROGRAMS WHICH PROVIDE IMPRESSION OF ECONOMIC REVIVAL. STATED THAT LOCAL TV STATION WAS ONE SUCH PROJECT VERY MUCH STILL IN PLP PLANS.
4. ISAACS ALSO DISAGREES WITH WALLACE-WHITFIELD STRATEGY NOT TO STAND FOR ISAACS SEAT BELIEVING WALLACE-WHITFIELD CANNOT LEAD EFFECTIVELY OUTSIDE OF PARLIAMENT. MADE PASSING REMARK WHICH SEEMED ONLY HALF JOCLAR, "PERHAPS I WILL FORCE HIS HAND BY RESIGNING."

5. ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE DIVISION IN FNM. CITED SPLIT

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BETWEEN HIS OLD FOLLOWERS AND NEW GROUP TO WHOM WALLACE-

WHITFIELD HAS TURNED. DOES NOT AGREE THAT WHITES IN FNM HURTS.
POINTED OUT BAHAMAS 15 PERCENT WHITE. BELIEVES WHATEVER
LIABILITY WHITES IN FNM PRESENT MORE THAN OFFSET BY ATTRACTING
VOTES OF THIS 15 PERCENT. BELIEVES, IN ADDITION, SOME BLACKS
RECOGNIZE COMPETENCE OF WHITES AND SUSPICIOUS OF PLP ALL BLACK
GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: ISAACS VIEW THAT ELECTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE CLOSE
IS NOT USUAL RHETORIC OF MINORITY PARTY POLITICIAN. ISAACS
VOLUNTARILY RELINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AND APPARENTLY WANTS OUT
OF POLITICS ALTOGETHER. MOREOVER, HIS PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS,
WHILE NOT RADICALLY DIFFERENT, HAVE BEEN MORE CONSERVATIVE
RE FNM CHANCES.

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